

Vermont DEC Rivers Program Flume Demonstration Policy

April 10, 2014

The Vermont DEC Rivers Program (VRP) uses the flume to support education and outreach efforts surrounding its River Corridor Protection program. Flume demonstrations by VRP staff provide a visual representation of the complex concepts relating human activities and fluvial geomorphic processes. Flume demonstrations can provide a general overview of the physical concepts governing river dynamics or may be focused on a particular concept such as river/road conflicts.

The targeted audience for VRP flume presentations is individuals and groups in a position to make direct use of the concepts presented in making important decisions that have meaningful impacts on river resources. VRP's targeted audience includes State and Town elected officials, municipal staff including planners and road crews, regional planners, State and Federal Agency partners, and community or watershed groups organized around a river related issue.

VRP limits flume demonstration efforts to events that will reach the targeted audience. Examples of events where VRP flume demonstrations are appropriate include town board meetings where river related issues are being discussed and events, trainings, or conferences targeted at the topics of flood resilience and river corridor planning/protection.

Flume demonstrations are primarily made by regional river scientists. Their ability to accommodate flume demonstration requests is contingent upon other critical and competing job duties. Every effort will be made to accommodate flume demonstration requests that will reach VRP's targeted audience. A minimum of two months advance notice is required to ensure scheduling. Recognizing the considerable effort and logistics surrounding flume demonstrations, regional river scientists may be limited to a maximum of two flume demonstrations per month.

If you would like to request a VRP flume demonstration please contact the appropriate VRP regional river scientist. A map of river scientist regions is available at the following link:

http://watershedmanagement.vt.gov/rivers/docs/rv_scientistregions.pdf

VRP does not release flumes on loan as it lacks administrative capacity to manage a flume loan program and lacks resources to cover any damages, losses and associated flume upkeep. A Rivers Program staff member, DEC Watershed Coordinator, or other designated ANR employee must be available to accompany a VRP flume demonstration at all times.

VRP recognizes that school groups and festivals/fairs are an opportunity to reach many individuals, and educating young people and the general public about river dynamics is an incredibly important endeavor. At this time, however, the Program cannot support a broadening of VRP's flume demonstration program to meet the incredible time demand these populations represent. This flume demonstration policy is an attempt to target limited resources where they will have the greatest impact. Increasingly, there are other groups in Vermont that have a flume and will do education/outreach to schools and festival events. VRP would be happy to provide referrals upon request.